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**My experiences are teaching me all the time.**

“I am learning all the time. The tombstone will be my diploma.” By Eartha Kitt. Everything I do, see, hear, touch, and taste always gives me a lesson. Some happenings help to get over the fear of something; other events let me learn something by myself. These all affect what I am going to do for the rest of my life in good ways, although the experience is a bad memory.

The most memorable learning from all my experiences is losing my brother’s passport and mine on the way from the Thanksgiving break trip in 2005. I was the one who has a gigantic fear of speaking English on the phone. However, the city I stayed was Liberty, Missouri where one cannot go without having a car. I did not have a driver license and, of course, a car. When I got back from the trip, I found out I had not seen my brother’s passport and mine. I was hard to admit that I REALLY lost my passport and, even, my brother’s one.

After passing throughout the horrible minutes to face my situation that I could not accept, I started to think where I saw the passport the last time, but I could not think of any place. The only equipment to look for them was phone calling to the every place that I went through. First, I listed the all hotels, flights, airports, etc. and their phone numbers by searching through the Internet. After finishing up the list, I picked up the phone and dialed the one number of the lists. But, I hung up right away because I was so nervous. I needed a transcript of the possible dialog and questions I wanted to ask. As soon as finishing the writing the transcript and taking a few deep breath, I dialed the number again.

My first phone call in English was painful to both of us, a lady who answered my call and me. She needs to repeat and speak slowly whenever I could not understand what she was saying to me. It took a 10 minutes to ask 2 questions; “Do you have any lost passports?” and “Can I leave my name and number you can reach me if you find one?” After the first phone call, I felt I had 100 phone calls. However, there was no time to get depressed on my lack of English ability. I keep making phone calls all the numbers in my list consistently. Later, someone recognized my voice and remembered my name even I only said “Hello.” But, I did not stop calling, then finally I had a voice message that a flight attendant found my brother’s passport and mine under the my seat in the airplane. I could count and memorize how many times I had called that day to find them. However, I do remember that I did not look at my transcript at all and understanding people’s speaking through the phone got better and better at some point. Even though It was exhausting days in my whole life, It was worthy. Now, I have no problem with speaking on the phone in any time.

This is the experience that encouraged me to overcome the fear I had a trouble with and allowed me to practice calling until I felt comfortable with. In my case, all I did to look for the passports, reading for the finding the numbers, writing the transcript, speaking on the phone and listening the voice message, are the activity that improves my four basic language skills without recognizing that I am actually learning from them.

Every language learner has the any kinds of fears; one might pronounce incorrectly, speak slowly, and so on. First, the teacher should listen carefully to his or her students and empathizes with students’ problems. Then, the teacher could make enjoyable activities that using all language skills and systems such as a role-play, making dialog, and so on. If students practice their own language problems by doing the role-play activity, the activity would be the experience helps to get over their problems. After all the activity related to their problems, students accomplish overcoming their weak part of learning processes.